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NIC-8987/83

The Director of Central Intelligence  
Washington, D.C. 20505

**FILE COPY**

National Intelligence Council

SP - 245/83  
12 December 1983  
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Lieutenant General James A. Williams, USA  
Director, Defense Intelligence Agency  
The Pentagon  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Jim,

In January of next year we plan to begin preparation of a comprehensive assessment of Soviet strategic air defenses and will hold a meeting of NFIB representatives later this month to coordinate the Terms of Reference for the NIE. I anticipate that the Estimate will be in high demand next year in connection with US operations and force planning decisions on bombers and cruise missiles and in connection with the new US strategic defense initiative. As in the case of other NIEs on Soviet military programs and capabilities, DIA's participation will be essential to the successful completion of the Estimate. [redacted]

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In view of the scope of the NIE and the complexity of the subject matter we will need the full-time participation of a DIA officer for the 5 or 6 months that will be required to complete the Estimate. For this purpose, I request that you detail [redacted] DIA/DE, to the National Intelligence Council beginning in January. As you know, he is skilled in the national intelligence production process and we have relied heavily on him in the past in dealing with estimates and force projections on Soviet air and missile defenses. [redacted]

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If you agree to detail [redacted] to the NIC, I will ask Larry Gershwin to finalize the arrangements with [redacted]

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Robert M. Gates  
Chairman

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LETTER to LTG. Williams

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